

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM



Lower San Joaquin River
Salinity and Boron
Control Program

TOPICS

- Highlights of morning session
- Regional Board
- Methods for reducing salinity and boron
- Potential control program

Morning Session

- Background information
- Potential water quality objectives

REGIONAL BOARD

- Responsible for protecting beneficial uses of both surface waters and ground waters
- Authority over both point source and nonpoint source discharges

REGIONAL BOARD

- Basic regulatory tool: Waste Discharge Requirements
- Nonpoint sources: Management practices
- Prohibition of discharge
- Enforcement

Basin Plan

Implementation Chapter

- Explains how the Board will conduct a program to protect water quality
- Contains time schedules
- Describes surveillance and monitoring

Can Salinity and Boron Levels be Reduced?

Methods for Reducing Salt and Boron

- Less salt into the valley
- More water
- Less salt in drain water
- More salt out of valley
- Real time water management

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Less Salt in Drain Water

- Water conservation
- Tailwater recovery
- Sequential reuse and volume reduction
- Evaporation ponds
- Water treatment
- Land retirement
- Active alternative land management

Less Salt in Drain Water

(Continued)

- Reduce municipal and industrial sources of salt
- Reduce other nonpoint sources
- Ground water management

Watershed Approach

- Control effort will address entire watershed
- Point and nonpoint source dischargers
- Water agencies
- Groups of water agencies and other regional entities

Approach

- Focus on waste management
- Does not address export of water from the watershed
- Does not address importation of salt

Nonpoint Source Dischargers

- State Water Resources Control Board's
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
- Three-tier process
 - Voluntary
 - Regulatory-based encouragement
 - Full regulation

Waiver of WDRs for Irrigation Return Flows (tailwater)

- Current conditions:
 - “Operating to minimize sediment to meet Basin Plan turbidity objectives and to prevent concentrations of materials toxic to fish and wildlife.”
- Proposed:
 - For LSJR watershed, add conditions related to participation in (1) a local watershed effort and/or (2) an MOU to establish a real-time operation

Waiver of WDRs for Wetland Discharges

- Same as for irrigation return flows

Waiver of WDRs for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage

- WDRs already used to control selenium
- Use irrigation return flow waiver conditions for subsurface drainage in low selenium areas

Proposed Categories of Dischargers

- Dischargers operating under WDRs
- Dischargers meeting WDR waiver conditions
 - Discharge meets receiving water standards
 - Local Management Plans approved by Board
 - Participant in Basin-wide Real Time Management Program

Waste Discharge Requirements

- Sets limits
 - Volumes
 - Concentrations
 - Loads
 - Timing of discharge
- Time schedules
- Monitoring
- Enforceable

Proposed WDR Waiver Conditions

High Quality Discharges

- WDRs waived if no salt added and discharge meets receiving water standards

Local Management Plan

- Prepared by water agencies, groups of agencies, or others
- Requires:
 - Evaluation of control options
 - How/when changes will be made
 - Monitoring
- Board approval required
- Should qualify for Proposition 13 funds

Real Time Management Program

- Single agency
- Will be able to use assimilative capacity during high-flow conditions
- Responsible for:
 - Coordinating activities of participants
 - CEQA/WDRs
 - Identification/implementation of control measures

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

- Incorporated into WDRs
- Goal for management plans

Program Timeline

- First 18 Months
 - Conduct monitoring

Program Timeline

■ Next 20 Months

- Notify Board of intent
- Cease discharge

or

- Prepare Management Plans

or

- Participate in development of Real-time Management Program

or

- Submit Report of Waste Discharge

Program Timeline

- Next 18 Months
 - Board consideration of Management Plans and WDRs

Incentive

- Prohibition of discharge?
- Other approaches?

Point Sources

- Develop salinity/boron reduction plans
- Comply with TMDLs

Groundwater Protection

- WDRs will be required for salt/boron storage and disposal sites

QUESTIONS

- Are there approaches to get involvement from:
 - Parties that divert water from the watershed
 - Parties that import salt into the watershed
- Are the timetables appropriate?
- For nonpoint source dischargers, are there incentives to participate other than a Prohibition of Discharge?



Lower San Joaquin River Basin

